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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

Chief, Personnel Security Division, CS 28 May 1969

JFK ACT RELEASE

Director, Domestic Contact Service
(Chief, Services Division)

FERRE, Nels F. S. -- Prominent Theologian's Condemnation of CIA

1. During an address at the Southern Baptist Convention of State Student Departments held at St. Louis, Missouri, Subject, prominent theologian and publicist of Andover Newton Theological Seminary, now associated with Wooster (Ohio) College, expressed his concern over the growing power of the CIA in the US. As an example, he said that the Agency was "directly responsible" for the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Senator Robert Kennedy, and had been involved in the death of President John F. Kennedy.

2. As his rationalization for the King assassination, Subject claimed that the Johnson Administration had become concerned that King would lead another "massive march on Washington" during an election year, and therefore ordered the Agency to murder King. He also said that the Agency was quite chagrined when their "brother service," Scotland Yard, had arrested their hired assassin, James Earl Ray, after CIA had believed he had been safely spirited abroad. His rationalizations for the other assassinations were not given. Subject is an ordained Congregational minister who has a PhD from Harvard.

3. Because of his prominence--he is listed in "Who's Who,"--Subject's remarks apparently were not challenged by the Baptist student directors who appeared to be quite concerned about the charges. These directors are responsible for the Southern Baptist activities on all university and college campuses in their respective states, primarily southern and border states.

4. [redacted]

5. Any questions pertaining to this memorandum should be directed to Mrs. Virginia Thorne, Ext. 2738.

B. FRANK YOUNG

6/5/69

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